

anywhere, and as to plays and balls, I have not been to a public place for a month, I expected a few days ago that my turn was come, and that I was to be ordered to follow Lord Malmesbury; but things appear to have taken another twist, and I fancy I am to stay. I had a hint given me the other day that I should have something soon to do, more than the administration had first intended. If so, I should rejoice at the opportunity given me of showing that I am capable of managing more important concerns than those I am charged with.

I received a letter from La Croix, the *ministre des affaires intérieures*, who, by order of the Directory, wished to see my commission. I called on him with it, at his sumptuous Hôtel de Gallifet. He was civil enough in his way, but appeared ignorant of the nature of our commission. (He kept mine.) He was in a long close coat, and wore his hair very long and powdered, without a *queue*. He is a tall, vulgar man.

I also waited upon Merlin de Douay, *ministre de la Justice*, about Sir Sidney, whom I asked to see, but in vain. This one was nicely

powdered
and pig-tailed, with spectacles.

The Directory have found the means
to be re-
chosen contrary to law, and to fill up
vacancies
themselves in the college.